

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-27 are pending. Specifically, claims 20-27 are sought to be added. The foregoing additions add no new matter to the present application.

Support in the Specification for Amended Claims

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.73(c) (and MPEP Section 1453), below is a brief explanation of support for each amended or added claim. The explanation provides the location in the specification for at least one supporting statement in the specification for each amended or added claim. Where appropriate, references to drawings are also provided. Furthermore, support for each amended or added claim may also be found elsewhere throughout the specification and the drawings, to which the Examiner is respectfully referred to. Therefore, Applicant believes that the claims, as amended, do not add new matter to the application.

This reissue application makes no changes to the specification or issued claims 1-20 of U.S. Patent 6,559,780. Instead, it only adds additional claims that provide a differing, and in some respects broader, scope of claim protection, which the Applicants had a right to claim in the original application. This reissue application is filed well within the 2-year time limit permitted for broadening reissue applications.

The originally issued claims contained 2 independent claims (one system and one method). Each of the independent claims required both first and second processing units (or first and second processing steps). It is clear from the specification, as understood by persons skilled in the art, that there are embodiments of the invention, which may operate independent of the other processing unit. That is, there are embodiments which may utilize only the first processing unit and other

embodiments which may utilize only the second processing unit. Also, the original claims referred to associations of data a “groups.” As is clear from the specification, some embodiments of the invention segregate data based on data “types,” and “types” is not necessarily synonymous with “groups.”

With regard to the newly-added claims, these errors have been addressed. Independent claim 20 essentially eliminates the first processing unit, while independent claim 21 refers to “types” of information, rather than “groups” of information. Independent claim 24 is a method claim that essentially eliminates the step associated with the first processing unit. Independent claim 25 essentially eliminates the second processing unit, while independent claim 27 essentially eliminates the steps associated with the second processing unit.

Independent claim 20 is supported by the specification at least by col. 6, lines 6-37.

Independent claim 21 is supported by the specification at least by col. 5, line 35 through col. 6, line 37.

Independent claim 24 is supported by the specification at least by col. 6, lines 6-37.

Independent claim 25 is supported by the specification at least by col. 5, line 52 through 6, line 5.


Independent claim 27 is supported by the specification at least by col. 5, lines 52 through col. 6, line 5.

Finally, the Applicant understands and agrees to its duty to surrender the ribbon copy of U.S. Patent 6,559,780 prior to the allowance of this reissue application.

Favorable action in regard to the application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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